

# **Jeffreys Bay Baptist Church**

## **Statement of Faith**

The church believes:

In the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament in their original writings as fully inspired of God and accepts them as the final authority for faith and life.

In one God eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

That Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary and is true God and true man.

That God created man in His own image; that man sinned and thereby incurred the penalty of death, physical and spiritual; and that all human beings inherit a sinful nature; which issues (in the case of those who have reached moral responsibility) in actual transgression involving personal guilt.

That the Lord Jesus died for our sins, a substitutionary sacrifice, according to the Scriptures and that all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood.

In the bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, His ascension into Heaven and His present life as our High Priest and Advocate.

In the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the personality of the Holy Spirit, His regenerating work and abiding presence in the true believer.

That all who receive the Lord Jesus Christ by faith are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God.

That all Christians are called to a life of holiness, devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ and service for Him. It is the duty and privilege of every believer to witness for Christ and to seek to bring others to Him.

In the resurrection, both of the just and the unjust, the eternal blessedness of the redeemed and the eternal banishment of those who have rejected the offer of salvation.

That God has sanctioned marriage between a man and a woman; therefore, we believe in heterosexual relationships between a natural man and a natural woman within the confines of lawful matrimony. Adherence to this stated principle of sexual behaviour is an inherent requirement for membership of the Jeffreys Bay Baptist Church.

## **Statement of Baptist Principles**

The Church further believes in the following distinctive Baptist emphases:

The **CHURCH** as the whole company of those who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ and regenerated by the Holy Spirit. The local church, being a manifestation of the universal church, is a community of believers under the Lordship of Jesus Christ in a particular place where the Word of God is preached, and the ordinances of Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper are observed. It is fully autonomous and remains so notwithstanding responsibilities it may accept by voluntary association.

**BELIEVER'S BAPTISM** as an act of obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ and a sign of personal repentance, faith and regeneration; it consists of the immersion in water into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The principle of **CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH GOVERNMENT**, namely, that a constituted church meeting is, under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the highest court of authority for the local church; and that each individual member has the inalienable right and responsibility to participate fully in the life and government of the church, including the appointment of its leaders.

The **PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS**, by which we understand that each Christian has direct access to God through Christ our High Priest, and shares with Him in His work of reconciliation. This involves intercession, worship, faithful service and bearing witness to Jesus Christ even to the ends of the earth.

The principle of **RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**, namely, that no individual should be coerced either by the State or by any secular, ecclesiastical or religious group in matters of faith. The right of private conscience is to be respected. For each believer this means the right to interpret the Scriptures responsibly and to act in the light of one's conscience.

The principle of **SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE** in that, in the providence of God the two differ in their respective natures and functions. The Church is not to be identified with the State nor is it, in its faith or practice, to be directed or controlled by the State. The State is responsible for administering justice ensuring an orderly community and promoting the welfare of its citizens. The Church is responsible for preaching the Gospel and for demonstrating and making known God's will and care for all mankind.

## **Changes to Baptist Principles**

Any change within the Church structure or organisation which is in conflict directly or indirectly with one or more of the stated Baptist Principles will be invalid unless approved by at least 90% (ninety percent) of the members present and entitled to vote at a duly constituted Special Church meeting of which at least three months' notice has been given. Any change to be made, shall not be of force and effect unless and until details thereof shall have been conveyed in writing to the General Secretary of the

Baptist Union. It is recognised and accepted that the Baptist Union shall have the right, in the light of such change, to terminate the membership of the church, with the Baptist Union. The implications of such a termination are recognised as viewed in the light of the provisions of Clause 2.2. The Clause may not be deleted or amended without approval of the Executive of the Baptist Union.